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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **MARYLAND ENERGY ADMINISTRATION INCREASES FUNDING LEVELS FOR THE "FUEL UP MARYLAND" SERVICE STATION ENERGY RESILIENCY GRANT PROGRAM**

*\$1.7 million grant program now offers \$25,000 for service station owners along evacuation routes.*

**Annapolis, Maryland** (November 25, 2013) — Today the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) announced new funding levels for the 'Fuel Up Maryland' program, an initiative that began in August 2013 to provide back-up power to service stations in the event of weather-related and other emergencies. The \$1.7 million grant program will provide funding for service stations to pre-wire for back-up power generation from portable generators, fixed generators, and/or batteries. To qualify for the \$25,000 grant the gas station must have fuel storage of more than 10,000 gallons, sell at least 75,000 gallons of fuel per year, and be one of the 850 service stations located within ½ mile of an on or off ramp of a Maryland evacuation route. Owners of multiple service stations may now receive up to ten grants.

"Smart energy investments begin with keeping the lights on in our homes and businesses and ensuring that our citizens will have mobility options in the wake of an emergency," said Abigail Ross Hopper, MEA Director. "Increasing the size of the grants and number of service stations eligible should serve to expedite the implementation of the program and make the State more energy resilient in an emergency."

The new funding levels will open today, November 25, 2013 and continue through June 2014. Applications will be accepted until all grant funds have been awarded. For more information and how to apply, please visit: <http://energy.maryland.gov/Business/fuelupmd/index.html>.

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The mission of the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) is to promote affordable, reliable, clean energy. MEA's programs and policies help lower energy bills, fuel the creation of green collar jobs, address environmental and climate impacts, and promote energy independence.